

## FARM AND GARDEN

### PUTTING UP ICE.

Plans For a Cheap House and For Storing Without a House.

The icehouse is fast becoming a recognized feature of the up to date farm. For preserving milk, meats and in the cold storage of fruits it can hardly be dispensed with.

A cheap icehouse that can be quickly erected by any farmer at a very slight



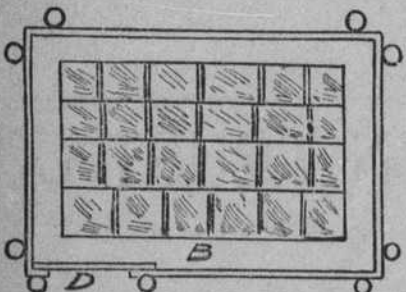
AN INEXPENSIVE ICEHOUSE.

outlay for materials is a matter of interest which has recently been considered in the Ohio Farmer as follows:

The size is determined by the length of the planks to be used. Nine posts, rough hewn, of suitable height, are provided, and two put up at each corner, as in the second cut, resting upon a block of wood or stone or set in the ground. The ninth post is placed at one side of the door. The bottom planks all around are thoroughly spiked to the posts and may be more firmly secured in place by spiking those at each corner. A plate of light scantling secures the top in place. Now it is ready for the ice.

Sprinkle on the ground a layer of sawdust about ten inches thick, then put in the first layer of ice, about a foot away from the plank walls. Fill this space solidly with sawdust (B). Place the second tier of ice, next put in position more planks, and so on until the house is filled, storing the ice and carrying up the walls together and filling in between with sawdust. A door (D) is made by simply using two lengths of plank on the front side, as indicated by the posts. When the house is full, a thick layer of sawdust is put on top of the ice. Drainage is secured by placing the structure on sloping ground. A roof of boards with the cracks battened is sufficient. With a little taste this may be made quite pleasing in appearance.

Icehouses can have their appearance improved by the free use of climbing vines. These not only answer as an embellishment, but serve a useful end in breaking the sun's rays and keeping the building much cooler than it would be under full exposure. It costs but little



GROUND PLAN OF ICEHOUSE.

more to make small farm buildings tasteful and picturesque in appearance than to have them look ugly and cheap.

Here is a way that any one can store ice without a house: The blocks of ice are gathered and stacked up in some favorable place and covered with a thick layer of straw. In northern Ohio a store of ice might last the season through. A similar stack might be made to help out the regular supply. For one of these temporary storehouses built against a bank the outer wall is put up with straw. It is held in place by boards and braces. The stack of ice is covered by a thick layer of straw, then a thatched roof is put over the whole. An ice stack of this kind answers perfectly when placed so that the water may naturally drain away.

**Keeping Open Paths.**  
One of the most important winter works on the farm is to open the paths after each snowfall. Where the path lies across places that usually drift full of snow much of the work of keeping the path open may be avoided by removing the obstruction to the wind which causes the drift. Most generally a drifting snow remains several days, so that the path will drift full every night, even though no fresh snow has fallen. In opening roads a team of steady, stout oxen hitched to a sleigh or sometimes to a stone sled will make a broad path better than horses could do it. We have often seen when a boy mows the cattle in the neighborhood brought out to follow after an ox team and sled. By the time those had been driven twice over the road it was considered safe for sleigh vehicles drawn by horses. A flock of sheep driven after all else will compact the snow best of all. But if snow drifts into the tracks thus made it will often be piled nearly as high as the loose snow on either side. It may be all right so long as the cold weather lasts, but let a thaw come and this solid snow must be abandoned and a new track made in the loose snow on one side of what has been used during the winter.—American Cultivator.

**Material For Covering Ice.**  
Undoubtedly sawdust is the best material to cover ice with, but in the part of the country where I live but little sawdust can be had because it is a long distance to any place where it is made in large quantities. Marsh hay is used instead of sawdust, and by many it is considered just as good. Clover straw or oat straw will do very well. Of the two, clover straw with the chaff from hulling is the better material, says a writer in Prairie Farmer.

For stock food it is concluded by the Vermont station that potatoes at 18 cents per bushel are dearer than an silage and make poorer butter.

### WINTER MARKETING.

How to Save Work and Make Money In Celery, Cabbage, Etc.

Digging vegetables out of pits on cold days when the ground is frozen is not agreeable work and is often done with great risk to health; so a New York correspondent of the Ohio Farmer has shrewdly planned to avoid all this in so far as possible. Here are some of his methods:

I have in the cellar a lot of boxes filled with celery, which was put up in the following way: About Nov. 1 we drew a lot of boxes to the field where the celery grew and put about two inches of soil in the bottom of each box, then lifted the celery with the spading fork, leaving a little soil on the roots, and set the plants upright in the boxes, packing the soil around the roots as it was put in. When the boxes were filled, we drew them to the cellar and watered the celery in the boxes by setting a tube in the box with a funnel on the upper end to convey the water to the roots of the celery without wetting the leaves or stalks, for this will cause them to decay. Two or three weeks before I wanted to blanch the celery I covered the boxes with cloth, for all that is required to blanch celery is to cause it to grow in a dark place. The average size of the boxes is 2 by 3 feet, and they hold from 25 to 50 plants. When marketing, we place a few boxes in the wagon, and if the weather is cold cover the boxes with blankets to keep the celery from freezing. Some of our customers will take several bunches, as they can place the roots in soil in the cellar and keep it several days, and some will take a whole box to put in the cellar for winter use. This plan of marketing I think will satisfy my customers and save much disagreeable work in trimming and handling celery in cold weather.

My boxes in which I packed the celery were picked up at the stores and cost about 5 cents each. I have also a quantity of celery stored in the cellar, which I shall put up for marketing in cold weather as follows: I will trim it ready for use, then wrap it in paper, making bunches of different size, to sell for 5, 10 and 25 cents. These will be packed in baskets holding about six dozen plants.

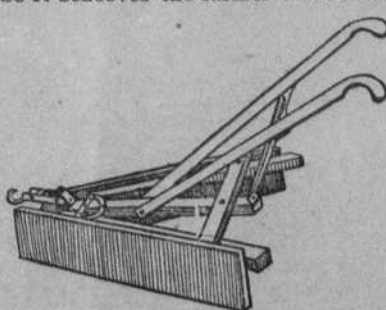
Other vegetables which I market in winter are usually cabbages, onions, squashes, turnips, etc. The cabbages and turnips are stored in pits and trenches outdoors, and on warm days in the winter we try to get out a supply to last several weeks and store them in the cellar. The most profitable cabbage for me to grow for fall and winter use is the Early Winningstadt. The heads are not so large as some of the Drumhead varieties, but they are of better quality and are very solid. As they have less loose leaves I can grow about one-third more on the same ground and get more tons per acre. There are so many people growing cabbages near me that during the fall and winter they are often slow to sell, but mine keep well in the trenches until spring, when the cabbages are mostly out of the market, and they bring good prices.

Onions and squashes are stored in the cellar in the fall and are handled with less work than the other vegetables mentioned. Onions pay the best here in September, when there is a demand for them from people who are making pickles, and then late in the winter, when the most of the crop has been disposed of.

In my locality if one can grow a good crop of Hubbard squashes he can make money, for they often retail for 5 cents per pound. A profitable combination of crops which I suggest is early sweet corn and Hubbard squashes on the same ground, and I would advise putting in well rotted manure in the hills where the squashes are planted.

**Bacterial Rot of Cabbage.**  
Very good authorities seem to agree that as there is no remedy known for cabbage rot preventive measures must be relied on in combating the disease. These measures are as follows: Avoid planting in land on which infected plants have been grown. Several years may be necessary to rid the land of the germs. Do not use manure containing decayed cabbage leaves or stalks either in the seed bed or field. Wet land should be avoided, as it favors the development of the disease. Keep the plants as free from insects as possible. Remove and destroy all diseased plants or portions of the plant as soon as diseased condition is noticed.

**For Cleaning Away Snow.**  
Clearing out paths through the snow with a shovel on a winter morning is not altogether a pleasant task. Besides, there are many roads and lanes about the farm that cannot be thus cleaned. So it behooves the farmer who is liable



A GOOD SNOWPLOW.

to be snowed up to possess a good snowplow. F. Greiner tells in Farm and Fireside of a very easy way to acquire one, provided you happen to have among your old farm implements a discarded wren frame cultivator in good condition.

He took such a frame, went to work, disrobed it of all unnecessary castings, and with the help of two pieces of board 15 inches wide and 4 1/2 feet long soon had an excellent implement in running order for making paths through the snow from house to barn, henhouse and other buildings, to clothesline, etc.

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